

Syllabi ~ Sociology 231.40 ~ Principles of Sociology Winter Semester 2016

Meeting day/time: Thursdays, 6:30pm – 9:24pm **Location:** WJ Maher (North Campus), Rm 202 **Start/End Dates:** 1/21 – 5/5, 2016

Instructor: Ms April Sue Platt, MEd

Office Hours: By appointment.

Text Book: Kendall, Diane **SOCIOLOGY IN OUR TIMES**, The Essentials Cengage Learning 10ed

ISBN-13: 978-1-305-09415-4 / ISBN-10: 1-305-09415-8

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- If I do not answer, please leave a detailed message with a return number and best time to call.
- o calls (unless a major emergency) after 8pm or before 8am.
- Do not expect responses Friday after Noon through Monday before 8am; this includes phone calls or e-mails.

Course Description:

Welcome to Principles of Sociology, this is an introductory course in the science of sociology. Students typically take this course to gain an understanding of our society, obtain an understanding of people and their relationship to society, or let's be honest... for some, it sounded like the best option from the general education list. Each of these reasons is a valid reason to be sitting in this classroom – and I hope it is a journey that will become a stepping stone in your continued education at Jackson Community College (JCC) and beyond.

Sociology is a way of life ~ it is the way we can each bring our varied perspectives to the table, view the world, question things around us, and develop thoughts surrounding what we see. The course, book, conversations, and homework will be a guide to explore the concepts of social structure and human interaction regarding culture, gender, race, and inequalities among the classes. As we learn about and begin to use our sociological perspective, it will help you become more successful as an employee, student, friend, parent, spouse, and citizen.

Associate Degree Outcomes (ADOs):

ADO's refer to the rubric that is used to measure student success in understanding and relating the content of the materials the instructor is presenting effectively. This class will stress the following essential skills, knowledge, and abilities as determined by the Jackson Community College Board of Trustees:

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| ADO 2 | Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and use information including written and oral forms. |
| ADO 4 | Demonstrate the ability to examine problems and issues related to society and employ appropriate critical thinking skills. |
| ADO 7 | Demonstrate critical thinking skills involving curiosity, emotion, evaluation of evidence, understanding implications and problem solving. |
| ADO 10 | Demonstrate an understanding of three (3) competing theories as applied to the field of sociology. |

Syllabus, Timeline, Class Assignments, Revisions:

The schedules, assignments and details in this syllabus and those provided throughout class are laid out as a guide. If necessary, assignments, tasks, deadlines, etc. are subject for modification/revision at the instructor's discretion. This could be due to class cancellation, varied class topics, special presentations, et al.

Student Support Services:

The W. J. Maher Campus phone number is 517.768.7097; contact them for tutoring, academic accommodations, etc.

Incomplete/Withdrawal:

If you have questions about Incompletes/Withdrawals you can receive more information via the JCC website: www.jccmi.edu (click current students or academics). Withdrawals can impact your financial aid and your long-term grade point average. Before withdrawing, you are encouraged to speak to a student services staff member.

Please note that purchasing the wrong book, not "getting the grade you want," going on vacation, not having time to study, etc are not ample reasons to warrant an incomplete.

Method of Instruction:

This course will include lecture, class discussion, and group activities. Students should feel free to ask questions at any time (please be courteous and ask at appropriate times). Discussions are a critical part of the course, it is how we will learn from one another and create a community within the classroom. It is important to note that for each class session to be successful, you **must come to class on-time and prepared.** Being prepared in this class means completing the reading, assignments, and any homework prior to the start of class.

It is encouraged that you bring your book and notes to class each week. I will not read directly from the book and at times will skim certain aspects to allow us to engage on a specific concept or idea. That said, you are still responsible for the content of each chapter assigned. Tests will cover materials throughout the chapters – even if we didn't discuss it specifically in class.

Attendance:

Given this class meets weekly, it is imperative that you are at each class. JetNet will be utilized to share what was covered in class, but power points, lectures, notes, etc will not be uploaded. In my experience, students who ATTEND class, are on-time, and prepared (readings completed, etc) have higher success rates.

Class attendance is a factor into your grade. Realizing that things do come up – circumstances beyond one's control (emergency room, death in family, etc) if you are able to provide documentation of your reason I will take the absence into consideration. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get information either from JetNet or a classmate.

Keep in mind – you have made a conscious decision to register for this class... please think through possible issues (transportation, child care, work, etc) and come up with “plan b and c.” Your failure to attend, prepare, or complete work accordingly is not an emergency for the instructor or reason for special consideration for final grades, incompletes, etc.

Attendance/Check-Ins:

During the first 10 – 20 minutes of class attendance will be taken.

Attendance may be taken in the following format:

- Activity- where attendance and additional points will be given: Small group discussions, engaging activity.
 - Basic attendance – sign in/roll-name call.
 - Check In – attendance and additional points given: Assessed written review (multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer).
- 1) If you are late, the instructor will not go in and automatically change the “absence to late.” You must see the instructor after class. At that time, the correction will be made. This must be completed the day of.
 - 2) If you miss the Activity or Check In – these items/tasks cannot be completed late. Therefore if you are late, and this is a method of Attendance/Check In for that class session; you will fail to earn those points.

Preparation:

- Keeping up with reading and assignments is integral to your success as a College Student, and especially in this class. We will cover approximately one chapter each week.
 - Late work will be accepted for up to ONE WEEK after the due date,
 - for those with documented excuse you will receive full credit,
 - for those without, an automatic deduction of up to 50%, depending upon the assignment.
- Use a planner, for this course and others. Mark deadlines, tests, papers presentation days, special projects, etc.
- Plan to do work BEFORE “the night before class or morning of...” There are always things that come up, distractions, computer issues, printer problems, flash drive concerns, etc. This is no excuse.
- ALL work will be requested at the beginning of class (unless it will be used in discussion at some point). You should come to class with your papers typed and PRINTED. No excuses. Come early, print them the night

before, etc. If you have issues with technology... PRINT TWO (just in case there are spills or other things that come up).

- How much time should you expect to put into this class OUTSIDE of our meeting time? Traditional theories say for every ONE HOUR IN the classroom, a student should spend at least TWO HOURS working outside (per week). This will vary on your reading speed, motivation to get projects done, distractions, etc.
- Again, plan accordingly. You know in advance the expectations... so to alleviate stress later in the semester block off specific time to complete homework for each class.

Instructor Expectations:

You can expect that I will come prepared to class... will ask you to engage in dialogue with one another... complete your work... and have fun!

I am here to help engage you in the learning process and help your college experience be great, not just in this class, but in others. *If you do not know how to... set up a word document with the formatting requested, use JCC e-mail, or log into or use JetNet; and want to learn – let me know. I would be more than happy to spend time showing student that need/want to know how.*

It is encouraged of you to think outside of the box, step outside yourself/your norms, investigate, be inquisitive... allow yourself to “stretch.” When you do this... you will get the most out of this course!

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is when one individual attempts to pass someone else’s work as their own. This could be work, ideas, or words from: a book, movie, storyline, peer, class mate. IT IS NOT TOLERATED! Detailed information can be found on the academic deans website regarding process, if a paper you turn in is found to be plagiarized you will be reported to the Deans office. You could be placed on academic probation, receive a letter in your academic transcript file, or be dismissed from school. If you have questions about, or do not know how to, cite resources or references... ASK!

Assignments:

Written Assignments: There will be TWO, each one worth 25 points. Dates and details to come.

Video Assignments: There will be TWO, each one worth 50 points. Dates and details to come.

MindTap: Chapter assignments loaded into MindTap; grades will be transferred into JetNet.

Attendance: Varied between 10 – 100 points (attendance only = 10) (10+ = attendance + activity).

Exam/Tests: There will be THREE exams, each worth 100 points. Dates to be announced in class.

Team Project: Worth 100 points. Groups will be selected, details will be provided at that time.

Various Homework: This does not include READING – but there will be special boxes to complete for discussion and may include reflections, etc. These are worth 10 points EACH.

Assignment Expectation:

- ✓ All homework will be typed. 12 point * New Times Roman, Ariel, or Calibri * Double Spaced * 1in margins.
- ✓ I will communicate via your JCC e-mail account and Jet Net. If you e-mail me, I will reply to your JetNet/JCC account – even if you send me a message from another account.
- ✓ Rubric and assignment descriptions will be provided for all work – detailing expectations and grading.
- ✓ Keep in mind, this class is the equivalent to a class that meets TWICE per week for 1.5 hours.

Respect, Language, Classroom Behavior:

It is inappropriate in this course to use obscene language or gestures, tell offensive jokes, or allude to sexual references that may be demeaning or offensive. To this extent, please be mindful of what you say and how you say it. This will be integral in order for us to discuss and dialogue about issues that may be sensitive to others in the classroom.

Due to the nature and content that we discuss, it is **integral** that we are able to talk openly; while respecting one another. If at any point you are concerned with the class discussion, etc... please bring it to the instructors attention so that it can be addressed or discussed.

- Please come with an open mind and be willing to interact with one another.
- If you come into class late, need to leave early, etc --- that is YOUR CHOICE. Please do not ask permission from me – as it is not my decision or grade that *could* be impacted. Please leave or enter quietly to avoid disrupting other students.
- Please silence cell phones during class. If you need to keep it on or take a call for class, please leave the room to do so. **NO CELL PHONES ARE ALLOWED DURING EXAMS OR CHECK – INS.**

Grading Policy and Procedures:

As you can see, we will be very busy this summer. The following grading scale will be used:

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| 4.0 | 90 - 100 |
| 3.5 | 86 - 89 |
| 3.0 | 80 - 85 |
| 2.5 | 75 - 79 |
| 2.0 | 70-74 |
| 1.5 | 65 -69 |
| 1.0 | 60– 64 |
| 0.0 | < 60 |

All assignments will be listed online via the Jet Net grade book. You are able to see your grades as we go.

Given I load a majority of the assignments into Jet Net at the start of the semester - you will need to calculate as we go.

You can view “by category” what percent you are receiving, as well as, at the very bottom you can see the overall from what we have completed.

Errors can happen... therefore, if there is a discrepancy, bring the paper in question to the next class or schedule an appointment with me. We will correct the grading error at that point. E-mailing or calling and asking me questions about grades will be less productive – as I will need to see the document.

Note: Items/points that have NOT been assigned are also calculated; thus you will need to do the math if you want an accurate grade.

(Total points received / total possible = percent)

Course Timeline:

| Date | In Class; We Did | Homework Assigned | Homework Turned in | Grade Received |
|-------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Introductions, Syllabi Review, Chapter 1 Overview, Theories | MindTap Chapter 1 | N/A | |
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